

Kansas Association named him Broker of the Year. He is president and CEO of Leader Mortgage Company in Lenexa, Kansas, which is in my congressional district. Leader Mortgage Company also has offices in Dallas, Texas; Des Moines, Iowa; Nashville, Tennessee; Topeka, Kansas; and Pittsburg, Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend A.W. Pickel for his contributions to his profession and involvement in his community and dedication to his wife Diane and daughters, Lara, Alissa, Jessica, and Rebecca. I join with the residents of the entire Third Congressional District of Kansas in applauding A.W. Pickel, III, for his successful tenure as President of NAMB and in wishing him continued success in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was detained and was not able to cast my vote on Rollcall #195, passage of H. Con. Res. 424, Honoring past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and encouraging Americans to wear red poppies on Memorial Day. Had I been present I would have voted "aye".

REPLANTING OF TREE MEMORIALIZING THE LATE REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH TAGGART OF KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honor of working with the Architect of the Capitol to replant on the east Capitol grounds a pin oak memorializing the late U.S. Representative Joe Taggart of Kansas City, Kansas.

Representative Joe Taggart was elected three times to Congress from a House district including Kansas City, Kansas—in a 1911 special election, and then in regular elections in 1912 and 1914. Born in rural Iowa in 1867, Joe Taggart moved to Kansas during his childhood and graduated from Salina Normal University in 1890; after teaching school for two years in Bavaria, Kansas, he was admitted to the practice of law in 1893 in Salina, moving shortly thereafter to Kansas City. Taggart served as Kansas City's prosecuting attorney from 1907–1911, when he was elected as a Democrat to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Alexander Mitchell. Twice re-elected, he was defeated in 1916. During the First World War, Taggart served in the quartermaster corps of the United States Army. After the war, he resumed private law practice in Kansas City and was appointed judge of the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations in 1924. Joe Taggart died in Wadsworth, Kansas, in 1938 and is buried in Atchison.

In approximately 1916, Representative Taggart and his family planted a pin oak in his

honor on the east lawn of the Capitol. The Architect of the Capitol has generously provided me with several prints of photos of that event. This tree survived, although in declining condition, until the area was leveled in order to construct the Capitol Visitors' Center. The staff of the Architect of the Capitol, led by Senior Landscape Architect and Horticulturist Matthew Evans, recently planted here on the Capitol grounds, near Independence Avenue, Southeast, a young pin oak to replace the earlier Taggart memorial tree. I also want to acknowledge the generous support of the Kansas Society of Washington, D.C.; thanks to the support of the Society's current president Heather Wingate and past presidents David Kensinger and Alan Sobba, the Kansas Society donated the cost of the new tree.

The replanting of the Joseph Taggart memorial tree serves as a small reminder of the state of Kansas on the grounds of our U.S. Capitol and I am pleased to have been a part of this event.

IN HONOR OF SAINT ANTHONY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the Congress and the nation to a story of excellence so rare that it deserves the attention of all who believe the human spirit is capable of overcoming even the greatest of odds.

This story is being written at Saint Anthony High School, a small school in downtown Jersey City whose motto is "to be all that you can be." While neither the school nor its students possess great financial resources, they are both blessed with the heart of champions.

The latest chapter of this story culminated when the Saint Anthony High School boys' basketball team won this year's New Jersey state championship with a stunning 67–55 win over Bloomfield Tech to cap a remarkable undefeated (30–0) season. With this victory, Saint Anthony High School tied a national record by winning its 24th state championship.

The team's legendary coach, Bob Hurley, has now produced an undefeated team in each of his four decades of coaching (1974, 1989, 1996, 2004).

Since Saint Anthony High School does not have a gym, the boys' basketball team has been forced to practice at a rented facility. Nevertheless, in 32 years of coaching, Hurley has compiled an amazing 826–92 record against high-caliber competition—winning an incredible 90 percent of his games.

Hurley has coached dozens of players who went on to become NCAA All-Americans and NBA stars. More importantly, he has taken thousands of boys and turned them into champions, both on and off the court. In 32 years, all but one of his players went to college.

Coach Hurley has gone on record about this undefeated 2004 team—calling them the best defensive team he's ever coached. That, I assure you Mr. Speaker, is saying something.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Coach Bob Hurley and the State Champion 2004 Saint Anthony High School

boys' basketball team in recognition of their commitment to excellence both on and off the court and for their continuing inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, May 17, 2004, the House had votes on H. Con. Res. 420, H. Con. Res. 423 and H. Con. Res. 403. On House roll call votes #177, #178 and #179, I was unavoidably detained at the airport. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Small Business Week to recognize Dr. Sam Rainey, the founder and owner the Family Pet Clinic, a small business located in my Congressional District. Dr. Rainey runs a successful veterinary clinic in Denton, Texas that employ seven North Texans—and he plans to hire another person very soon.

It is small businesses like the Family Pet Clinic that are driving America's economy today. They create the majority of new jobs and account for half of the economy's private output. In 2002, 99.7 percent of all businesses were small businesses.

Small businesses have had an enormous impact on innovation and progress in America. Historically, the bulk of breakthrough products emerged from small businesses. Small firms produce 13 to 14 times more patents per employee than large companies.

The 108th Congress has passed a number of initiatives to bolster small businesses including the Jobs and Growth Reconciliation Act of 2003 which included a provision that tripled the amount that small businesses can immediately expense and increased bonus depreciation for the purchase of capital equipment.

In addition to fiscally helping small businesses, the House of Representatives passed Association Health Plan legislation that would enable small businesses, of similar trade and profession, to pool their employees for better health care coverage benefits. By joining together, small employers will enjoy greater bargaining power, economies of scale and administrative efficiencies.

In conclusion, as we celebrate National Small Business Week, congratulate Dr. Sam Rainey and his thriving small business and urge the U.S. Senate to show their support of America's small businesses by passing initiatives, like association health plans, that are important to small businesses and their employees.